

CLAIMS

1. A communications unit comprising:
 - a receiving device for receiving signals from a first and a second wireless communications network;
 - 5 a controller, coupled to and controlling the receiving device, for detecting a condition indicative of initiating communication over the first wireless communications network; and
 - a transmitting device, coupled to and controlled by the controller, and cooperatively operating with the receiving device and the controller for facilitating the communication over the first wireless communications network and for facilitating registration with the second
 - 10 wireless communications network when the controller detects the condition.
2. The communications unit of claim 1, wherein the receiving device is further for receiving a beacon signal;
 - wherein the controller is further for detecting beacon information included with the
 - 15 beacon signal, the beacon information indicative of a location of the communications unit; and
 - wherein the registration with the second wireless communications network is facilitated when the controller detects both the condition and the beacon information.
- 20 3. The communications unit of claim 1, wherein the controller is further for determining a coverage quality corresponding to the first wireless communications network, and wherein the registration with the second wireless communications network is facilitated when the controller detects the condition and when the controller determines that the coverage quality satisfies a predetermined threshold.

4. The communications unit of claim 1, wherein the controller is further for
determining a coverage quality corresponding to the second wireless communications
5 network, and wherein the registration with the second wireless communications network is
facilitated when the controller detects the condition and when the controller determines that
the coverage quality satisfies a predetermined threshold.

5. The communications unit of claim 1, wherein the controller is further for detecting
10 an other condition indicative of one of a completion of the communication over the first
wireless communications network, a completion of a communication over the second
wireless communications network, and when the communication was never initiated, and
wherein the controller cooperatively with the transmitting device and the receiving device
facilitates deregistration from at least one of the first wireless communications network and
15 the second wireless communications network when the controller detects the other condition
indicative of the completion of the communication.

6. The communications unit of claim 1, wherein the controller is further for detecting
a location of the communications unit, and wherein the registration with the second wireless
20 communications network is facilitated when the controller detects the condition and that the
location of the communications unit is within a first predetermined range.

7. The communications unit of claim 6, wherein the controller is further for detecting if the location of the communications unit is within a second predetermined range, and wherein the registration with the second wireless communications network is facilitated when the controller detects the condition and that the location of the communications unit has
5 changed from the first predetermined range to the second predetermined range within a predetermined time period.

8. The communications unit of claim 1, further comprising a motion detector in communication with the controller for detecting a motion of the communications unit, and
10 wherein the registration with the second wireless communications network is facilitated when the controller detects the condition and that the motion of the communications unit exceeds a predetermined motion threshold.

9. The communications unit of claim 1, wherein the condition comprises at least one
15 of:

accessing a communications unit phone book; dialing a number; opening a hinged cover of the communications unit; and entering a key for access to the communications unit.

10. The communications unit of claim 1, wherein the first wireless communications
20 network comprises a first one of a wireless local area network (WLAN) and a wireless wide area network (WAN) and wherein the second wireless communications network comprises a second one of the WLAN and the WAN.

11. A software program for facilitating a fast handover of a link with a communications unit between a first and a second wireless communications network, the software program when installed and executing on a controller of the communications unit
- 5 resulting in the communications unit:
- registering with the first wireless communications network;
 - detecting a condition indicative of initiating a communication over the first wireless communications network; and
 - registering with the second wireless communications network upon the detecting of
- 10 the condition.
12. The software program of claim 11, further comprising:
- detecting a beacon signal indicative of a location of the communications unit; and
 - registering with the second wireless communications network upon the detecting of
- 15 the condition and the detecting of the beacon signal.
13. The software program of claim 11, further comprising:
- determining a coverage quality corresponding to at least one of the first and the second wireless communications networks; and
- 20 registering with the second wireless communications network upon the detecting of the condition and the determining of the coverage quality.
14. The software program of claim 11, further comprising:
- initiating the communication over the first wireless communications network.

15. The software program of claim 14, further comprising:
- completing the communication over the first wireless communications network; and
- deregistering from at least one of the first and the second wireless communications
- 5 networks upon the completing of the communication.

16. A method for facilitating handover of a link with a communications unit between wireless communications networks employing different technologies, the method comprising:

5 operating exclusively on a first wireless communications network;
 detecting an action preparatory to initiating a call;
 initiating the call using the first wireless communications network; and
 upon the detecting of the action, registering with a second wireless communications network.

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17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
 observing beacon information transmitted by the first wireless communications network near a border of a coverage area of the first wireless communications network;
 registering with the second wireless communications network upon the detecting of
15 the action and the observing of the beacon information transmitted by the first-wireless communications network.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
 detecting coverage quality corresponding to the first wireless communications
20 network; and
 registering with the second wireless communications network upon the detecting of the action and the detecting of the coverage quality.

19. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

detecting coverage quality corresponding to the second wireless communications network; and

registering with the second wireless communications network upon the detecting of the action and the detecting of the coverage quality.

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

completing the call over the first wireless communications network; and

de-registering from at least one of the first and the second wireless communications networks upon the completing of the call.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the operating exclusively on the first wireless communications network further comprises starting up a first stack corresponding to the first wireless communications network;

wherein the registering with the second wireless communications network further comprises starting up a second stack corresponding to the second wireless communications network; and

wherein the de-registering from the at least one of the first and the second wireless communications networks comprises dropping at least one of the first and the second stacks.

22. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

detecting a location of the communications unit;

determining if the location of the communications unit is within a first predetermined range; and

5 registering with the second wireless communications network upon the detecting of the action and the determining if the location of the communications unit is within the first predetermined range.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising:

10 determining if the location of the communications unit changes from the first predetermined range to a second predetermined range within a predetermined time period; and

 registering with the second wireless communications network upon the detecting of the action and the determining if the location of the communications unit changes from the
15 first predetermined range to the second predetermined range within the predetermined time period.

24. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

detecting a motion of the communications unit; and

20 registering with the second wireless communications network upon the detecting of the action and the detecting of the motion of the communications unit.

25. The method of claim 16, wherein the first wireless communications network comprises a first one of a wireless local area network (WLAN) and a wireless wide area network (WAN) and wherein the second wireless communications network comprises a second one of the WLAN and the WAN.

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